

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /077 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6624
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0546

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM SY
SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING GENEVA FEB 6-MAR 10

REF: STATE 15786

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH DEPFONMIN AL-KHANI JANUARY 25
FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
MEETING AND REVIEWED ITEMS WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL BE PRINCIPAL
FOCUS OF COMMISSION'S WORK (PARA 3 REFTEL).

2. AL-KHANI HAD NO SPECIAL REACTION TO THE PROBABLE TOPICS
FOR DISCUSSION AT GENEVA. COMMENTED THAT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ITS LONG-STANDING POLICY. SYRIA WOULD PLAN GIVE
MAJOR ATTENTION TO ISSUES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

3. TOLD AL-KHANI THAT MEZVINSKI WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY
TO CONSULT WITH SYRIAN DELEGATION PRIOR TO AND DURING
MEETING. AL-KHANI STATED THAT SYRIA WOULD BE REPRESENTED
BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, HAITHAM KAYLANI - FORMER
SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN. ANY OTHER SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVE
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SENTATIVES WILL BE SELECTED BY KAYLANI FROM STAFF OF SYRIAN
MISSION IN GENEVA. AL-KHANI UNDERTOOK TO INSTRUCT KAYLANI,
WHO HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR GENEVA, TO CONTACT MEZVINSKY.

4. FINALLY, AL-KHANI NOTED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON SYRIA, AS WAS KAYLANI. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EZGSA MIGHT BE CALLED ON TO ADDRESS

ISSUES RAISED IN THE LAST REPORT CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS

IN SYRIA. SAID HE BELIEVED SYRIA WOULD FACE NO SERIOUS

PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD. CONTRASTED SYRIAN SITUATION
WITH APPARENT GROSS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE.

5. AL-KHANI SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET AGAIN

WITH EMBASSY WHEN WE HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO THESE

SPECIFIC ISSUES.

MURPHY

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